"These Holocaust deniers are very slick people.
They justify everything they say with facts and figures."
...Steven Some, Chairman of the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education

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U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum Displays Standard German Air-raid Shelter Door, Describing it as the Door to a Gas Chamber at Majdanek



Door on the alleged gas chamber at the Madjanek camp.

German ad for gas resistant door used in the many shelters for air-raid and gas attack protection.

At left: The door at the concentration camp Majdanek from which the USHMM made the replica which is now on display in Washington D.C.. At right, the real function of the door and thousands more like it is shown in a widely distributed German ad for bomb-shelter doors and window covers, intended for military and civilian use. Approximately 670,000 German civilians were killed in the massive Allied terror-bombing campaign directed at population centers throughout Germany.

A standard air-raid shelter door is displayed at the **United States**

concentration camp. The peephole was supposed to be for monitoring the progress of killing with cyanide gas released from a common fumigation product called Zyklon B. Those looking through it were sometimes said to do so to monitor and improve the efficiency of the killing system, but a more common charge is that it was done for sadistic personal pleasure.

Many are convinced that German hatred for Jews was so great that they derived great amusement and satisfaction from watching their death throes, as well as engaging in bizarre forms of harassment and torture, some of them quite fantastic, bordering on the supernatural. There's been a steady tendency for the claims to increase their variety and horrific detail with the passage of time, perhaps showing the dubious phenomenon of recovered memory enjoying its most productive period ever.

The realities of the myths that sprang from a thirst for vengeance and are sustained by it still, with the added factor of a memorial industry and reparations in the billions of dollars that depend on it totally, are often very different.

The door and window shutter (Türen und Blenden) on the right appear in an **advertisement for equipment to outfit the thousands of air-raid shelters** built across Germany and occupied territories, ***including the concentration camps***. (See: Technique and Operation of German Anti-Gas Shelters in World War II, by Samuel Crowell) As noted in the Crowell article, and several more to come, it has recently been discovered that **German air-raid shelters were required to also provide protection against gas attack**. With WWII coming only 20 years after WWI, memory of the horrors of gas warfare then were relatively fresh, and the Germans took more defensive measures than most since the conflict was sure to be played out again on European soil.

The peepholes in the doors were for safety purposes. *People inside wanted to be able to see conditions outside before exposing themselves to possible danger*, and rescuers from outside had the same concern, plus wanting to make a quick evaluation without opening the door in order to save precious time (seeing if everyone was dead, or if no one was inside).

Germany were available for inspection by many people after the war, and **the adamant accusations of killing centers there made in 1945-46 were officially admitted to be false in 1960**. Despite this, or perhaps because of it, show trials were held to reinforce the story in the public mind, particularly and most successfully in Germany, and another group of German veterans were convicted based on flimsy, contradictory and often quite unbelievable oral testimonies, as at the earlier kangaroo trials. There, accusations that someone struck a prisoner were sufficient to result in a death sentence for participating in a conspiracy to commit crimes against humanity. *It was not necessary to prove that the person killed anyone, only that he or she played an active part in a sprawling system that did so.* Despite the fact that the false allegations about mass gassing chambers in Dachau and other German camps came from some of the same sources that made similar charges about Auschwitz, Treblinka and Madjanek, there was no call to question the now suspect testimony. It was accepted as fully true with no hesitation.

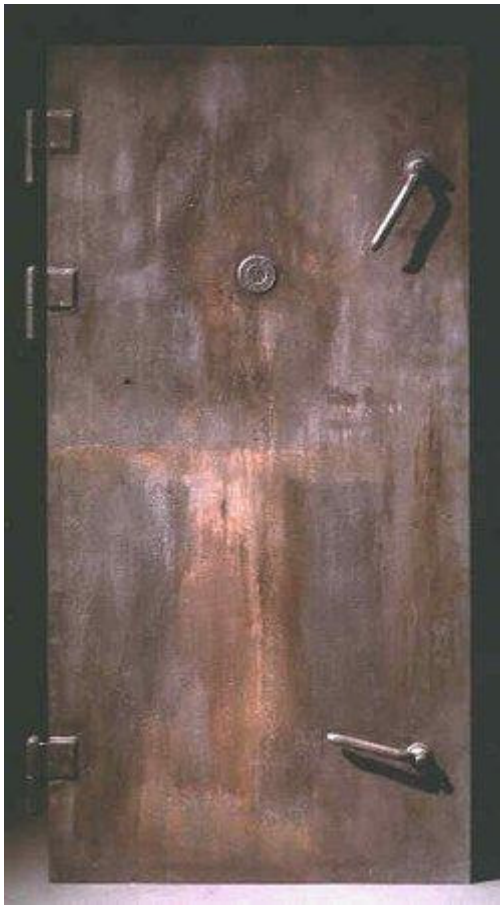
But with the fall of the Soviet Union and the opening of many of its archives, fresh eyes and attitudes are actively seeking the truth of the matter and in the process finding truth to be a scarce commodity when atrocity charges are involved. The now Religion of the Holocaust has defenders as fiercely immune to logic and a concern for truth as any fundamentalist religion that has ever existed. Nevertheless, at some point the burden of supporting the unsupportable will become too hard and too dangerous, and we predict that at that time the gas chamber canard will be quietly abandoned in favor of the real and documented wrongs of a lesser but still horrible magnitude.

Perhaps the Allied powers will one day own up to their own crimes, committed in an effort to grind the will of the German people into dust so that they would not pose a future threat to those who consider domination of world trade and finance to be their exclusive possession. Almost 15 million Germans were summarily expelled from their homelands that in some cases went back 700 years or more, cast into the harshest European winter in a century with only what they could grab and carry. More than two million of them died of starvation, disease, and merciless attacks from those they encountered on their frozen paths of desperation. It was a pogrom

known to very few because of a virulent anti-German bias that flourishes in the corridors of power. The innocent souls of the German victims are surely as worthy of acknowledgement as any other group victimized, and the situation cries out for justice, for at least a chronicling of the truth.

That lot will fall to another generation, but this will be the one to force a public and honest re-examination of what really went on inside the German forced labor camps from 1940 to 1945. Any who feel threatened by truth or the search for it say far more about the validity of their own positions than do their critics.

-- David Thomas, 7/12/97





A remarkably sinister rendering of the air raid shelter door casting at the USHMM, found at their student outreach web offering. The caption there is:

> "This casting of a door to the gas chamber in the Majdanek killing center, near Lublin, Poland, was commissioned by the United States Holocaust Museum in 1989. Majdanek functioned as a concentration camp, forced-labor camp, and killing center. Each gas chamber in Majdanek was fitted with an airtight metal door. It was bolted shut before gas entered the chamber inside. SS guards could observe the killing process through peepholes in the upper center of the door."

But, as can be seen from the ads and Crowell's article, this is just one of thousands of such doors that were produced in an attempt to keep the people in Germany from being blasted into eternity by the relentless carpet-bombings.

NOTE: The original ads were black and white, color was added for contrast and easier viewing.

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